

The Upper Falls News

The Upper Falls News is an email newsletter about what's going in our village. The Upper Falls News is brought to you by the Upper Falls Area Council but it's intended to cover any and all news in the village. If you have any upcoming events, activities, news or stories related to Upper Falls just send them to info@UpperFallsNews.org and we'll include them in the next newsletter.

Upper Falls Trivia - The old railroad tracks in Upper Falls will be removed in the coming year to build the Upper Falls Greenway. What does each one of the 39 foot long pieces of track weigh?

Young Poop Activists - [Three nicely hand drawn, plastic laminated signs](#) appeared this week at the Emerson playground. The colorful drawings are attached to the fence of the children's play area. The signs ask passersby to "Please pick up your dog poop" and are signed by Rebecca, Leah and Sophie. There is also a container full of plastic bags attached to the fence. They are clearly the work of three young neighborhood girls who we suspect may have had an unfortunate encounter with the material. Kudos to young Rebecca, Leah, and Sophie for using their artistic skills to help depoopify our park and play area. Good job girls! ... and thanks to Amy Adyanthaya for the photos and tip

Sunday Fun at the Emerson - Upper Falls newcomer (last Aug) Danny Weglein saw an empty gym and became a man with a plan. If you're under 11 years old, come on up to the Emerson Community Center on Sunday afternoon from 2 - 4 PM for a little free form fun. The gym is well stocked with a big closet full of equipment for all sorts of activities (e.g. basketball, baseball, floor hockey, dodge ball). Last Sunday featured an early wiffle ball game and ended with kids flying around the gym on little carts at the end of long ropes. Come join the fun! Thanks to Danny for taking the initiative to get this together ... and welcome to the neighborhood. NOTE: This just in, the Emerson Gym will be closed this Sunday (4/15) while the floor is resurfaced. Fun will begin again on the following Sunday (4/22)

.. and For Their Bigger Brothers and Sisters - Friday nights, children 11-18 have their fun at the Emerson. Younger children are also welcome, so long as they have an adult stay with them. Special thanks to Andrea Murphy, a Newton South Senior, who serves as the Friday night gym attendant.

Will We Have a Post Office? - Last summer the US Post Office announced that our Upper Falls branch was one of the many being considered for closing. The neighborhood was quite vocal in our opposition to the closing. A petition was started (Nina Kochs), letters to the editor were written (Anil Adyanthaya and others) and many of you turned up for the public hearing and made impassioned pleas to save our post office. The US Post Office is now digesting all of the feedback about all of the potential closings across the country. The decision on whether Upper Falls and other branches will stay open will be announced next month, on May 20th. Keep your fingers crossed ... and go buy some stamps.

Dam Preparations - The project to replace the small sluiceway dam in Hemlock Gorge at the corner of Ellis St and the Rt. 9 exit has begun. All of the trees have been ringed with lumber to protect them during construction. Truck loads full of wood chips have been dumped and spread, presumably to protect the ground from the heavy machinery. Temporary lights and electric service has been installed. The whole area has been ringed by a fence ... and yes the one detail you need before it can be considered a real construction project - the **port-o-potty** has been delivered!. Sometime next week they're scheduled to put in the temporary dam to divert the water during construction. It's a big operation for a little dam and will likely not be finished until the end of July.

Mayor's Night in Upper Falls - Mayor Setti Warren was at Dunn Gaherin's this past Wednesday night (4/11) as part of his Mayor's Office Hours series of stops in each of the city's villages. Locals with anything on their mind could sign up for a 10 minute slot to speak to the mayor. All of the 10 minute slots from 5:30 - 7PM were fully booked so we guess Upper Falls has plenty to talk about.

Upper Falls Area Council - The Upper Falls Area Council is your voice to the city. Their monthly meeting was this past Thursday (4/12) and was well attended. A contingent of

neighbors from Indiana Terrace were in attendance for the discussion about ongoing parking issues on their street. It was agreed that the first step would be to contact the business owners in the adjacent building to encourage their employees to use the on site parking. Other issues discussed included the [Upper Falls Greenway project](#) status and [NewtonSERVES cleanup](#) on 4/29, the pot holes in the Emerson parking lot and Pettee St and various other street issues. If you have ideas, concerns, or questions about anything else happening in the village, send an [email to the council](#), come to the next meeting, or both.

Spring Cleaning - The [Hemlock Gorge spring clean](#) up will be Saturday morning, April 21 with volunteers meeting in the parking lot just over the Needham side of the river off Elliot St at 9AM. The Upper Falls Greenway cleanup is the following weekend on Sun, April 29 and is part of the citywide annual NewtonSERVES day. For more info or to sign up, [click here](#).

Spread The Word - Our goal is to collect email addresses from every resident of Upper Falls as well as anyone else who's interested in the village. Please help spread the word and urge your friends, family and neighbors to [sign up for The Upper Fall News](#).

Send Us Your News - If you have any upcoming events, activities, news, trivia, stories, anecdotes or jokes related to Upper Falls just send them to info@UpperFallsNews.org and we'll include them in the next newsletter.

Trivia Answer - Each piece of rail is stamped with the number 115. That number encodes the weight of the track per yard (115 lbs per yard). So in a dazzling display of 6th grade algebra ... $39 \text{ feet long track} / 3 = 13 \text{ yards} \times 115 \text{ lbs per yard} = 1495 \text{ pounds}$ for each piece of track. Thanks to Jim Lerner for this trivia contribution.

Extra Credit Bonus Question - How many tons of steel are there in one mile of track. $2 \text{ rails} \times 5280 \text{ feet/mile} = 10560 \text{ feet of rail} / 39 \text{ feet per section} = 270 \text{ rails} \times 1495 \text{ lbs per rail} = 403650 \text{ pounds of track} / 2000 \text{ lbs per ton} = \text{approx } 202 \text{ tons}$. Whew! - I might make it to 7th grade after all.

Apologies - We apologize in advance to our more sensitive readers for the scatological

theme of this week's Upper Falls News.